



July 14, 2006

Preparedness and Planning

HHS Assists States With Antiviral Drug Purchases

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) [announced](#) a contract award with Roche Laboratories, Inc. to provide oseltamivir phosphate (Tamiflu®) to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, five U.S. territories and the three Freely Associated States of the Pacific at a federally subsidized price. Under the HHS contract, 59 jurisdictions will be able to purchase at federally negotiated price from Roche and will receive a 25 percent federal subsidy for a prescribed number of treatment courses. The contract will run for a period of two years with a total contract award amount of \$149,110,000.

HHS Releases Interactive HIPAA Tool for Emergency Responders

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently published a [web-based tool](#) designed to help public health officials access health information on disabled residents during an emergency while remaining compliant with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act's (HIPAA) privacy rule, AHA News Now reports. The tool leads users through a series of questions related to HIPAA and how the rule would apply to a particular disclosure. The tool also helps narrow the scope of what information can be disclosed—to whom and for what purpose—in the event of an emergency to improve response for elderly and disabled Americans. While the tool focuses on the needs of persons with disabilities, the system can be applied to most emergency-planning efforts and is intended for use by all organizations covered by HIPAA and by federal, state and local emergency planners.

OPHP Submits CDC and HRSA Cooperative Agreement Applications

In June, OPHP received the FY 2006 CDC Cooperative Agreement Guidance. The total CDC allocation for Michigan in year seven is \$23,221,202. This cooperative agreement is a continuation of state and federal efforts to develop emergency-ready public health departments by upgrading, improving, and sustaining their preparedness and response capabilities. HHS's Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is allocating \$15,060,697 to Michigan in year seven to develop medical surge capacity and capability to deal with mass casualty events. Both HHS cooperative agreement applications have been submitted, in spite of the very short turnaround time. Kudos to all those involved.

News

Illegal Poultry Imported from China

State and federal authorities are trying to track down a cache of frozen poultry smuggled into the United States and metro Detroit from areas in China. Some of the poultry found in a Troy warehouse has been seized and destroyed in the past few weeks. "We've seen no indication any of the material is contaminated with avian influenza," said Brad Deacon, emergency management coordinator for the state Agriculture Department. For more information, click [here](#).

Michigan's Border Health

Their new webpage can now be found at this easy to use URL: www.michigan.gov/borderhealth

Events

AgExpo

The 27th annual Agricultural Exposition (AgExpo) is being held on July 18-20 at the beautiful campus of Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan. For more information, visit [AgExpo's web-site](#).

HHS Issues Final Rule for Smallpox Vaccine Injury Compensation Program

HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt [announced](#) final rules for the Smallpox Vaccine Injury Compensation Program. The rules strengthen the smallpox vaccination compensation program, which provides benefits to public health and medical response team members and others who are injured as a result of receiving the smallpox vaccine. The final rules supersede and update the Smallpox Vaccine Injury Table and the Administrative Implementation interim final rules that were published in the December 16, 2003, Federal Register.

New Anthrax Therapeutic Treatment

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [announced](#) it will purchase 20,000 treatment courses of ABthrax, an anthrax therapeutic treatment, from Human Genome Sciences of Rockville, Maryland for \$165,205,217. Delivery is expected to begin in 2009. Under the terms of the agreement, full payment to Human Genome Sciences is contingent on the product receiving licensure from the Food and Drug Administration.

Exercises

Completion of TOPOFF 4 Command Post Exercise

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced it has completed the [TOPOFF 4 Command Post Exercise](#) (T4 CPX), a congressionally mandated counterterrorism exercise for top officials. The exercise, which took place from June 19-22, 2006, is a multifaceted effort to prevent and respond to a simulated terrorist attack using weapons of mass destruction (WMDs). More than 4,000 federal, state, local, and tribal senior officials and managers from 85 organizations participated in the T4 CPX.



Pandemic

Bringing Schools and Public Health Together for Pandemic Influenza Planning

Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) are providing guidance to schools about communicable disease prevention and pandemic influenza planning. On July 10, Dr. Eden Wells from MDCH and Mr. Bob Higgins from MDE spoke to the Michigan Association of Local Public Health (MALPH) Board of Directors about collaboration between local public health and schools in pandemic planning and communicable disease control. Together MDCH and MDE will be creating a toolkit on CD which will contain various pandemic influenza and communicable disease prevention materials. The CD will be distributed to school educators and local public health agencies for use.

School Action Kit

Contra Costa Health Services in California created a [pandemic influenza kit](#) for use in schools. This kit contains downloadable examples of letters to parents, sample of a declaration to close schools, as well as other information to help aid schools in pandemic planning and response.

Pandemic Influenza Guidance Phase II

The Pandemic Influenza Supplement to the 2006 Public Health Emergency Preparedness Cooperative Agreement Phase II guidance arrived this week. Michigan has been allocated \$7,118,866 for pandemic influenza preparedness activities. This application is due to CDC on August 31, 2006.

HHS Pandemic Planning Update II - A Report

At the end of June 2006, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) released the [second pandemic planning report](#). DHHS has accelerated the pace of planning and preparation including: monitoring disease spread to support rapid response, develop vaccines and vaccine production capacity, stockpile antivirals and other countermeasures, coordinating preparedness at all governmental levels, and enhancing outreach and communications planning.

Communications

Working Conference on Emergency Management and Individuals with Disabilities and the Elderly

Bringing together federal and Governor-appointed emergency planners with disability experts for the first time, the Departments of Health and Human Services and Homeland Security Administration convened a [conference](#) to consider the needs of people with disabilities and the elderly in emergency management. The Working Conference on Emergency Management and Individuals with Disabilities and the Elderly sought to improve federal and state preparedness, response, relief and recovery.

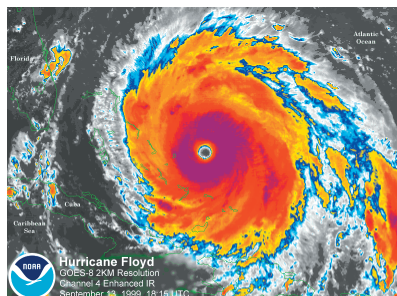
Last year's Hurricane Katrina confirmed that people with disabilities are among the most vulnerable in any emergency. A Kaiser Family Foundation survey found that 40 percent of evacuees who could not leave New Orleans before the storm were either people with disabilities or their caregivers. Speakers at the conference discussed the failed response to Katrina including poor evacuation plans, inaccessible shelters, prolonged institutionalization, inaccessible temporary housing and inadequate efforts to reintegrate evacuees with disabilities into their communities.

Family Health and Literacy Guide

In 2006, World Education in collaboration with the National Institute for Literacy and a grant from MetLife Foundation developed the [Family Health and Literacy Guide](#). The guide is designed to help integrate health and literacy education. The guide provides easy-to-read health education materials and websites for families that will be helpful to literacy teachers and health educators. Most all of the resources listed online are available for free.

Hurricane Information Available through NPHIC

Government agencies and citizens can find a wealth of information about hurricanes available through the National Public Health Information Coalition's ([NPHIC](#)) [web site](#). "This is a ready resource for all agencies and the public to use when hurricanes are approaching. The materials will assist people to get their lives back to normal following these storms," said Ann Wright, president of the NPHIC.



Surveillance

Epidemiology of Human Avian Influenza (H5N1) Cases

In the June 30 edition of the Weekly Epidemiological Record, the World Health Organization (WHO) set out results from the [first analysis](#) of epidemiological data on all 205 laboratory-confirmed H5N1 cases officially reported to WHO by onset date from December 2003 to 30 April 2006.

USDA Releases Report on Avian Influenza Efforts

On June 29, the U.S. Department of Agriculture released its 180-day [report](#) on avian influenza (AI) efforts and the use of \$91 million appropriated in the Emergency Supplemental Appropriation to Address Pandemic Influenza six months ago. The report details USDA's efforts both internationally and domestically to combat highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza (HPAI H5N1).



Global Public Health Surveillance under New International Health Regulations

The new International Health Regulations adopted by the World Health Assembly in May 2005 (IHR 2005) represents a major development in the use of international law for public health purposes. One of the most important aspects of IHR 2005 is the establishment of a global surveillance system for public health emergencies of international concern. This [article](#) assesses the surveillance system in IHR 2005 by applying well-established frameworks for evaluating public health surveillance.

Hospital Preparedness



Hospital Emergency Response Training (HERT) for Mass Casualty Incidents (MCI) Train-the-Trainer Course

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has implemented a monthly offering of "Hospital Emergency Response Training for Mass Casualty Incidents Train-the-Trainer" at the Noble Training Center (NTC) in Anniston, Alabama. This course is designed to provide guidance to hospitals, EMS, health care facility personnel and others who may become involved in a mass casualty incident as a result of a hazardous materials incident or weapons of mass destruction event. This [course](#) expands on the hospital incident command system (HICS), chemical protective clothing, equipment (CPC&E) requirements, as well as HERT design, development, and training. This course prepares a HERT to conduct a safe and effective emergency response during mass casualty incidents. If you have questions, please contact Mr. Ron Freeman at (323) 757-0716, (323) 823-0856, or email at hertii@earthlink.net. Onsite training is also available at your hospital or healthcare facility, contact Mr. Freeman for additional information.

Emergency Management Principles and Practices for Healthcare Systems

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration (VHA), [announced](#) the release of a compendium titled Emergency Management: Principles and Practices for Healthcare Systems. The contract called for the iden-

tification and validation of emergency response and recovery competencies for four job groups within health care organizations and the development of a curriculum that addressed emergency management program concepts and practices, incident management systems and processes, and organizational learning strategies.

Training & Education

Online Trainings Now Available from Michigan Center for Public Health Preparedness

The Michigan Center for Public Health Preparedness (MI-CPHP) is pleased to announce the launch of the first two in a series of [online trainings](#) that feature instructional modules with video and informational slides. Continuing education credits are available for these training courses; training and credit are free. Epidemiology for Non-Epidemiologists (online) and Psychosocial Issues Related to Bioterrorism (online) are competency-based and self-paced courses that allow users to gain an understanding of important topics or to refresh their knowledge. Case studies and exercises engage users in skill-building. MI-CPHP, housed in the Office of Public Health Practice at the University of Michigan's School of Public Health, provides online and onsite preparedness trainings for Michigan's state and local public health workforce. For questions, email prepared@umich.edu or call (734) 763-6526.

Risky Business: Communication During Crisis

How do public health professionals best communicate with the public and other officials in emergency situations or times of uncertainty? How can we simultaneously protect people and keep panic at a minimum? The University at Albany will be broadcasting "Risky Business: Communication During Crisis" on Thursday, July 13, 2006 from 10-11am. This program will provide clear guidelines for and pitfalls to avoid in order for public health professionals to communicate most effectively in high risk situations. OPHP will be showing this broadcast in their library. If you are NOT OPHP staff and would like to attend please call (517) 335-8150 at least 24 hours before the broadcast.

Live Response: The Psychological Impact of Terrorism

The National Terrorism Preparedness Institute at St. Petersburg College will be broadcasting "Live Response: The Psychological Impact of Terrorism" on Wednesday, July 19, 2006 from 2-3pm. Victims are affected by terrorism and can be impacted psychologically, such as development of post-traumatic stress disorder. Emergency Responders may also experience symptoms associated with traumatic events. Providing mental healthcare to public safety personnel is important for their overall well-being. Critical Incident Stress Management will be explored during this edition of "Live Response". OPHP will be showing this in their large training room. If you are NOT OPHP staff and would like to attend please call (517) 335-8150 at least 24 hours before the broadcast.

The Role of Health Promoter in Emergency Response

The Alabama Public Health Training Network will be broadcasting "The Role of Health Promoter in Emergency Response" on Tuesday, August 1, 2006 from 2-3pm. Health promoters are vital assets to emergency preparedness, but are often overlooked in state and local emergency response. The recent national disasters highlight the critical need for health promotion skills in community as well as the lessons learned in the recent Gulf Coast crises. This plenary will provide some key observations from ground zero responders as well as CDC's Emergency Communication System staff. OPHP will be showing this in their large training room. If you are NOT OPHP staff and would like to attend please call (517) 335-8150 at least 24 hours before the broadcast.

Hola: Providing the Best Healthcare for Our Guatemalan and Mexican Clients

The Alabama Public Health Training Network will be broadcasting "Hola: Providing the Best Healthcare for Our Guatemalan and Mexican Clients" on Wednesday, August 2, 2006 from 3-5pm. The demographics of the United States are rapidly shifting. Americans are becoming more ethnically and racially diverse and Hispanics constitute the largest minority group in the United States. As of 2004, Hispanics accounted for 14% of the population, (41 million) and will constitute approximately 25% of the nation's total population by 2050. Some 64% of the nation's Hispanic population are of Mexican or Mexican-American background. The 2000 US Census reported that in Alabama alone, there are over 75,000 Hispanics and of that number, nearly 2500 were from Guatemala. The impact of this increase is being felt in our healthcare system, social service and educational institutions. Like most immigrant populations, they experience difficulty in accessing and utilizing our healthcare system because of barriers such as language, inability to obtain or afford health insurance, low income, as well as very little knowledge of how our health system works. Program faculty will discuss and explore these issues and present innovative and successful techniques to provide acceptable healthcare to this growing client population. OPHP will be showing this in their large training room. If you are NOT OPHP staff and would like to attend please call (517) 335-8150 at least 24 hours before the broadcast.

Mass Antibiotic Dispensing: Alternate Methods

The CDC will be broadcasting "Mass Antibiotic Dispensing: Alternate Methods" on Thursday, August 3, 2006 from 1-2:30pm. State and local SNS planners have suggested that it may not be possible to provide prophylaxis to the entire community in 48 hours using only the traditional Points of Dispensing (POD) model. Alternate methods of dispensing, such as pushing medications to businesses, nursing homes, or assisted living facilities, may be necessary in addition to PODs. This live interactive program will describe several alternate methods of dispensing that planners can consider as they develop their comprehensive dispensing plans. Planners from state and local public health agencies will discuss the methods they have devised and exercised in their communities. Panelists also will identify the issues and opportunities associated with pushing medication to large employers in the community or delivering medication to sheltered-in populations, such as those in nursing care or assisted living facilities. A question and answer session will enable participants nationwide to pose questions to panelists. OPHP will be showing this in their library. If you are NOT OPHP staff and would like to attend please call (517) 335-8150 at least 24 hours before the broadcast.



Immunization Update 2006

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will be broadcasting "Immunization Update 2006" on Thursday, August 10, 2006 from 9-11:30am. This live satellite broadcast and webcast will provide up-to-date information on the rapidly changing field of immunization. Anticipated topics include influenza vaccine, pertussis vaccine for adolescents and adults, revised recommendations for hepatitis A vaccination of children and the new vaccines for rotavirus and herpes zoster. Information about human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine may also be included. OPHP will be showing this in their library. If you are NOT OPHP staff and would like to attend please call (517) 335-8150 at least 24 hours before the broadcast.

ComNET: Communications, News, Equipment, and Training

The National Terrorism Preparedness Institute will be broadcasting "ComNET: Communications, News, Equipment, and Training" on Wednesday, August 23, 2006 from 2-3pm. Featured stories include: Resource Typing: Resource Typing is an integral part of the National Incident Management System (NIMS). It enhances the ability of emergency managers to request and locate the resources they need during a disaster.

Agroterrorism: California produces much of the Nation's food supply. The Western Institute for Food Safety and Security (WIFSS), at the University of California, Davis (UCD), has developed DHS certified courses on Agroterrorism.

Environmental Health and Vector Control: After a major storm, like a flood, hurricane, or tornado, there may be standing water. This water may attract mosquitoes that carry viruses that can be dangerous.

Water Search and Rescue: Water Search and Rescue requires a highly skilled Marine Safety Staff who are experts in aquatic rescue and incident command. They need to be equipped to respond to a variety of rescue incidents, including terrorism. ComNET explores the specialized training and rescue services of Huntington Beach, California, and uncovers how it has become a leading agency and international lifesaving model.

OPHP will be showing this in their large training room. If you are NOT OPHP staff and would like to attend please call (517) 335-8150 at least 24 hours before the broadcast.

Radiological Terrorism: Medical Response to Casualties

The purpose of this online self-study [training course](#) is to provide clinician education on local medical response to mass casualties during the immediate aftermath of a radiological or nuclear terrorism incident.

Regional News

MEMS Planning in Region 2 South

Modular Emergency Medical System (MEMS) planning in Region 2 South began on May 8, 2003 when the Planning Board adopted MEMS as the mechanism to increase surge capacity and as model for causality management

Since that time, Region 2 South, through the hard work of its partners in health care, public health and emergency management, has developed and refined a MEMS Concept of Operations document. The Health Departments in the Region are focusing on the development of the Neighborhood Emergency Help Center (NEHC) Concept of Operations and selecting NEHC sites. Concurrently, Region 2 South has drafted the Alternate Care Center (ACC) Concept of Operations and the hospitals in the region are focusing on planning for and selection of various ACC sites. The University of Michigan Hospitals and Health Centers (U of M) was the first health care system to initiate plans to select a site for and host an Alternate Care Center.

While several checklists exist to assess the overall viability of a site for ACC use, further evaluation is needed to determine the logistical practicality of the site. Planning at U of M began with members of various hospital departments, which included pharmacy, security, administration and materials management, meeting to discuss various potential locations and the pros and cons of each

site. Site visits were then conducted to preview the location and determine which was best fit to host an ACC.

After additional meetings to discuss issues such as logistics, security, supplies and equipment, a decision was made to hold a tabletop exercise at one of the most promising sites as the next step in the evaluation process. This exercise, held in December 2005, involved bringing together multiple individuals from the various U of M departments as well as individuals from Region 2 South, other hospitals, emergency management and the Red Cross to critically assess the site for multiple issues including a logical patient flow, method for logistical support and ability to secure the site. The results of this exercise concluded that while the site could be used for an ACC, there were several limitations that may make another site more feasible depending on the circumstances of an event.

As a result of the tabletop, a functional exercise was held in June 2006 to assess another ACC site. Planning for this exercise focused on logistics, command, and operations (both medical care and information). This exercise was not designed to completely test all functions of the ACC, but to physically establish two Pods (Adult and Family Pods) and process approximately 20 patients. The main areas evaluated were the flow of patients through registration to triage/treatment and finally to the treatment pod. This included evaluating methods of treating children and families, the logistics patient movement at the site, as well as the registration process and newly finalized ACC forms. Approximately 60 cots purchased by Region 2 South were set up and several types of portable business radios were also tested.

While the results of that exercise are still being tabulated, the site does address some of the logistical issues that were identified at the first site, while presenting some of its own. Several different methods of triage/evaluation and registration were tried during the exercise and those processes will be refined in the ACC Concept of Operations. An after-action report is currently being generated and the findings will be used to adjust any planning deficiencies.

Region 8 Update - Drills, Exercises and Trainings

With the coming of spring and fair weather there has been a blooming of drills and exercises across the Upper Peninsula. Because the UP is large in geographic area, we have subdivided the region into four divisions each of which cover three or four adjacent counties. This allows us to conduct multi-county exercises that are cost effective and meaningful to that specific area or Division. Every Division has had at least one functional or full-scale exercise this spring. In addition, NIMS training programs have been and are being conducted by hospitals and EMS services throughout the Region. Most organizations have met their compliance needs and many have exceeded the current guidelines.

The West Division had two full-scale exercises. Houghton and Keweenaw counties MCI drill scenario was focused around a plane crash at their airport. Baraga County had a large scale terrorist event as their scenario that included a bombing, shooting and poison into Keweenaw Bay. All local emergency services were involved with the addition of the USCG from Houghton. The South Division started off this spring with a large Tabletop Avian Flu exercise. Iron, Dickinson, Menominee, Marquette and Delta Counties were represented as well as services from the border of Wisconsin. The Central Division drilled a MCI that had a scenario of a release of a poisonous gas within a public school. Emergency services from Marquette, Alger, Schoolcraft and Luce Counties participated in this Full-scale exercise. Drills have also taken place in Chippewa and Mackinaw Counties.

The following are highlights of three exercises that I attended as an observer or as an evaluator. The avian flu tabletop hosted by Dickinson County Healthcare System was exceptionally well attended. This four hour exercise began with a self-serve lunch and a presentation about historical Flu pandemics. With Alyson Sundberg facilitating, and John Cox directing, this exercise was active and lively with excellent participation. I was particularly impressed with the problem solving that went on and how well the Tabletop stayed on track.

The MCI exercise in the Central Division that involved a release of a poisonous gas within a public school was facilitated by Becky Wilder, Emergency Manager for Alger County. This staged Full-scale drill involved opening the County EOC, and on site EOC, Decon at the site, opening an NEHC, ACC, and sending trauma victims to Marquette General Hospital and Munising Memorial Hospital. Students from Superior Central School participated as victims and the entire school was evacuated for this drill. This exercise involved four counties, multiple EMS and fire services, law enforcement, the Red Cross and a public school!

On June 16, Mr. William Fyvie of Region 8 attended a functional exercise in Manistique in which the scenario was day three of a flu pandemic. This staged exercise involved opening of the County EOC, the hospital EOC, NEHC, ACC, Morgue, EMS, law enforcement, use of public transportation, CERT, MRC, Hospital Auxiliary, Health Dept. and representatives from the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians. There were two things about this event that truly impressed me. The first being the depth of volunteerism in Schoolcraft County along with the stock of emergency supplies that they have put together. The other is how this event was developed as a tool to educate the public. Through the local media the public was invited to take part in this drill, public transportation was arranged to bring the public to the location (Manistique High School). Upon arriving they became the "victims" and were processed through the NEHC to the ACC. They were provided educational about the Avian Flu and about the many agencies and volunteer groups represented in this exercise. This most excellent collaborative effort by Mr. Mark McCune of LMAS District Health Department and Ms. Cindy Thome of Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital produced an exercise and community education that should be emulated throughout the State.

No drill or exercise is ever perfect, that is why we have them, but the creativity and the collaboration that I have witnessed this spring in the Upper Peninsula has been impressive.

Other News

DHS Completes National Infrastructure Protection Plan

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced today the completion of the [National Infrastructure Protection Plan \(NIPP\)](#), a comprehensive risk management framework that clearly defines critical infrastructure protection roles and responsibilities for all levels of government, private industry, non-governmental agencies and tribal partners. The NIPP builds on the principles of the President's National Strategy for Homeland Security and its companion strategies for the physical protection of critical infrastructure and key assets and the securing of cyberspace. It also fulfills requirements in Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 7 and the Homeland Security Act of 2002.

Almost \$400 Million in Grants Available for Infrastructure

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) [announced](#) today that nearly \$400 million in Fiscal Year 2006 grants will be made available to strengthen the nation's ability to prevent, protect against, respond to and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters and other emergencies that could impact this

country's critical infrastructure. The funding will be dispersed through the DHS Office of Grants and Training's Infrastructure Protection Program.

Excessive Heat Events Guidebook

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has produced an [Excessive Heat Events Guidebook](#) with assistance from federal, state, local and academic partners. This guide is designed to help community officials, emergency managers, meteorologists, and others plan for and respond to excessive heat events. The guidebook highlights best practices that have been employed to save lives during excessive heat events in different urban areas and provides a menu of options that officials can use to respond to these events in their communities.

Google Launches Government Search Site

According to an article posted on June 15 in the *Washington Post*, Google has launched a [government search site](#). According to the article, the new online product is aimed at being a one-stop shop for searching federal government Web sites. The launch of Google U.S. Government Search targets federal employees who often need to search across several government agencies.

Communicating with the Public Using ATIS During Disasters

The U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration, in conjunction with the American Red Cross, conducted a study to examine what information needs to be communicated to evacuees and other travelers under disaster conditions. Further, this study discusses how the advanced traveler information system (ATIS) assets of a state's department of transportation or other transportation agency can be effectively used to deliver such information. The resulting [report](#) details a concept of operations for dissemination of information to the traveling public during disaster events.



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